

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, January 28, 2005

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REACHED IN PERSHING PARK LAWSUIT

The District of Columbia this past week announced that it has entered into a Settlement Agreement with the seven plaintiffs in *Julie Abbate, et. al., v. District of Columbia, et. al.*, a lawsuit arising from a mass arrest made at Pershing Park on September 27, 2002. In resolving this case, the District and the MPDC worked productively with the plaintiffs and their attorneys to improve MPDC's mass demonstration policing and better facilitate the public's exercise of their First Amendment freedoms. While denying liability by any defendant, the Settlement Agreement provides for the MPDC to revise its mass demonstration policing protocols and training, and for the District to financially compensate the plaintiffs and their attorneys. The agreement also requires Chief Ramsey to issue a letter of apology to the seven plaintiffs. The Chief said that in implementing these measures, he and Mayor Williams worked hard "to ensure that the District of Columbia Government carries out its duty to ensure that persons may enjoy free and open expression in this city with the utmost confidence that their constitutional rights will be respected." The Chief further expressed his hope that the plaintiffs and all persons "will be comfortable in the future in peaceably and lawfully exercising First Amendment rights in the Nation's Capital."

- ① For more information on the Settlement Agreement, go to:
<http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=3043>

MPDC JOINS IN SOUNDING ALARM ABOUT NEW WEAPON THAT CAN PENETRATE SOFT BODY ARMOR

The MPDC this week joined three leading police organizations in urging police nationwide to be on the lookout for a small, easily concealable handgun that fires bullets that penetrate soft body armor, calling the gun an immediate threat to law enforcement officers. The groups, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO), announced their alert at a news conference at the First District Station in Southwest DC. They were joined by US Senator Charles Schumer and Congressman Elliott Engel of New York. The gun, the Five-SeveN handgun manufactured by FN Herstal of Belgium, is lightweight and easily concealable. It is marketed by the company on its website as intended "to defeat the enemy in all close combat situations in urban areas, jungle conditions, night missions and any self defense action.... Kevlar® helmets and vests as well as the CRISAT protection will be penetrated." Staff of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence recently purchased the weapon at a Virginia gun dealer and test-fired it. The bullets successfully penetrated a police Kevlar vest.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://www.bradycampaign.org/press/release.php?release=621>
- ① To view a video of the test-firing of the Five-SeveN handgun, go to:
<http://www.bradycampaign.org/1er/fnh>
- ① Learn about gun safety tips, laws and resources in DC at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/gunsafety.shtm>

MPDC SEEKING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR NUMEROUS CIVILIAN CAREER VACANCIES

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for more than a dozen civilian positions within the agency. Many of the vacancies are for professional positions in a variety of MPDC units. For example, the Department is recruiting for the newly created position of District Manager in each of the seven police districts. This person will be responsible for managing administrative operations in the district stations, including financial, personnel and material needs and problems. The District Manager is a Management Supervisory Service position, with a starting salary of at least \$73,582 a year. Other vacancies include a customer service representative in ROC-East, one writer and one editor to work on Department directives, firearms instructors and part-time crossing guards. Salaries, units of assignment, tours of duty, closing dates and other elements of the jobs all vary. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in various administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

DC CELEBRATES RE-ENTRY WEEK 2005

In January 2002, DC's Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) and the CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership launched an initiative to connect offenders returning to the District from prison with the support and strength of the city's faith institutions. Currently, more than 40 interdenominational faith institutions and more than 200 specially trained mentors are part of the Reentry partnership. In addition, five working groups – including representatives from the MPDC – were formed to develop a Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults, focusing on pre-release planning, education and employment, public safety, family and community support, housing, and legislative and policy issues. The goal of the Comprehensive Reentry Strategy is to provide a detailed, long-range plan for an effective continuum of reentry services for DC offenders during incarceration, transition from incarceration to the community, and life in the community during and after supervision. To continue this effort and raise awareness of needs of prisoners returning from incarceration, DC is celebrating Reentry Week 2005, from January 29-February 4. A variety of workshops, services, open houses and other events are planned throughout the District.

NEWS & NOTES

Talk with Chief Ramsey This Week. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls and emails on two media programs this week: "News Talk," from 4-5 pm, on Wednesday, February 2, on News Channel 8; and "Ask the Chief," from 10-11 am, Thursday, February 3, on WTOP radio. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>.

CCTV Cameras Activated. As a routine public safety precaution, the MPDC is activating its network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras for the President's State of the Union Address on Wednesday, February 2. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3050>.

Juvenile Homicide Hearing. Chief Ramsey will testify Monday at a DC Council joint oversight hearing on juvenile homicides in DC. The Chief will provide a statistical update on juvenile homicides and discuss the MPDC's enforcement, intervention and prevention strategies. For the Council's complete calendar, visit <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/calendar.html>.

① Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

① Individuals can get information about civilian and sworn career opportunities at the MPDC's 2005 Career Expo, from 9 am to 5 pm, on Saturday, January 29, at the Washington Convention Center. Details at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/expo2005.shtm>

① For details on Reentry Week activities, go to:

http://www.csosa.gov/reentry/reentry_week_2005.pdf

① For background information on the Reentry initiative and the Comprehensive Reentry Strategy, visit:

<http://www.csosa.gov/reentry/index.htm>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 1/28/05
◆ 2005: 14	
◆ 2004: 23	
◆ % Change: -39.1%	
◆ Closure Rate: 50.0% (7 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 1/22/05
◆ Total: 588	
◆ Drugs: 82	
◆ Weapons: 12	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 15	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 17	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 1/22/05
◆ Arrests: 23	
◆ Curfew Violations: 11	
◆ Truants: 22	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 1/26/05
◆ January: 168	
◆ 2005 Total: 168	
◆ 2005 Total: 2,065	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 1/28/05
◆ 2005: 2	
◆ 2004: 5	
◆ % Change: -60.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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